

Medicare & Medicaid Services released an actuarial report that shows that the President's new health care law will increase health care costs over and above what was expected; premiums for families and small businesses will rise beyond what was expected; and access to a physician will suffer for many, many Americans. They also showed that the \$500 billion in indiscriminate cuts to Medicare to pay for a new entitlement is a very deep cut that will hurt access to care for many of our seniors. Half of all seniors in the Medicare Advantage program will lose their current coverage. I have 140,000 seniors in my State of Louisiana who depend on Medicare Advantage in rural areas for access to a doctor. They're going to lose that kind of coverage that gives them that valued access to the physician of their choice.

This bill, this law, fails to lower costs. It creates red tape and bureaucracy, and it really does nothing to enhance quality for most Americans.

FROM HEALTH CARE REFORM TO WALL STREET REFORM

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, you've got to give it to my friends on the Republican side of the aisle. They are incredibly consistent. They have sided with the big pharmaceutical industry and the insurance industry. Sadly, they lost that debate, but they want to revisit it with the changes we made in health care and some of the outrageous health insurance practices we outlawed, like preexisting condition exclusions, rescissions of your policy when you get sick, and nonrenewal when you get sick.

But they're also fighting to change the subject here, because they're also trying to stop the reform on Wall Street. Their biggest patrons are the pharmaceutical industry, the insurance industry, and Wall Street. And they just want to protect the status quo for those folks.

Over on the other side of the Hill, the Republicans in the Senate are blocking financial reform—reform of Wall Street, doing away with the abuses that crashed our economy and put millions out of work. And every single House Republican voted against reforming Wall Street here on the floor of the House. Well, two were absent but all those who voted, voted against it. Now they want to change the subject back to health care, except they lost that debate, too.

AS PREDICTED, HEALTH CARE COSTS WILL RISE

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I have been here for about 30 minutes listening to

both sides talk past each other. Mr. Speaker, the American people, they get it. They get it that in fact cap-and-trade will increase the cost of doing business; that health care, which is already too big a piece of the family budget, is going up, not down; that government is increasing spending at a time in which the revenue is far less than what we're spending. In fact, 40 percent of the budget is being borrowed. And now we're having the hubris to call financial reform of something that in fact is a financial bailout guarantee.

Under President Clinton and a Republican Congress, Glass-Steagall was eliminated. Why in the world wouldn't we be talking about simply recreating the separation between real banks that the FDIC does have a fund for, created by the banks, and investment banks, which you recognize if they fail, they fail, and you are only guaranteed on the underlying stock.

Mr. Speaker, I call for real reform.

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THE REPEAL REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO REPEAL POPULAR BENEFITS OF HEALTH REFORM

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, the Repeal Republicans have sided with the insurance industry from day one, ignoring the need for reform when they controlled Congress and opposing reform at every step as Democrats fought for reforms that serve the needs of the American people. The Repeal Republicans really haven't changed. They now want to repeal the reforms, and they will use every deceit, every piece of misinformation, and even outright lies to oppose reform and, in the process, try to protect the industry's profit margin.

When Democrats fought to close the doughnut hole and strengthen Medicare by extending its solvency, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. When Democrats fought to allow children up to the age of 26 stay under their parents' coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it. And when Democrats fought to ban caps on coverage, the Repeal Republicans sided with the insurance industry and opposed it. Now they want to repeal it.

We really shouldn't be surprised. The Repeal Republicans are the same ones who want to dismantle Medicare as we know it and who want to privatize Social Security.

THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, there has been an unfortunate and devastating accident in the Gulf of Mexico that caused the death of 11 workers. Now we must deal with the attendant oil spill estimated at 42,000 gallons a day. To provide a bit of perspective, the gallon capacity of an Olympic-size swimming pool is 648,000. At the current spill rate, it will take 15½ days to spill the equivalent of an Olympic-sized pool.

Historic production of oil from the Gulf is 1.7 million barrels per day. The U.S. consumes about 19.5 million barrels a day. There will be those who will say this spill is reason enough to cut off future offshore oil production. That would be disingenuous.

Until this accident, the industry has had an impeccable record in the Gulf. According to Amy Myers Jaffe, an energy expert at Rice University, in the last 15 years, there was not a single spill of more than 1,000 barrels among the 4,000 active platforms offshore. She said offshore drilling was considerably safer for the environment than the tankers used for importing oil.

We need to clean up the spill, not use it as a political football.

STOP WALL STREET FROM GAMBLING WITH OUR ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, the executives on Wall Street reaped rewards by bending the rules and dodging financial regulation. Then they turned to the American taxpayer to dig them out. With Wall Street reform, average Americans will never again be on the hook for Wall Street's mistakes. We, quite simply, put an end to the taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Our legislation will make big banks accountable for their own failures and give regulators the tools they need to put the interest of working- and middle-class Americans first. Wall Street reform stands up for working- and middle-class families by putting a stop to the unregulated greed of Wall Street executives who took big bonuses while gambling with our homes, our jobs, and our economy.

Additionally, Democrats are continuing to make investments in small businesses and rebuilding America's infrastructure. Small businesses are the engine of job creation in this country and will be the birthplace of our economic recovery. That's why we are working to partner with small businesses to help them grow and to expand so they can hire more workers.

I encourage the American people to stand strong with Democrats to stop Wall Street from gambling with our economic security.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL HEALTH CARE PROBLEM: RISING COSTS

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, when the health care bill was moving through Congress, I repeatedly made the arguments that the legislation was flawed because it failed to fundamentally address the problem with our current health care system—rising costs. Well, now guess what? A new analysis just put out by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirms that disturbing fact. According to CMS, the new health care law will actually increase our Nation's health care costs rather than decrease them.

Here are some of the staggering numbers: Health care spending is projected to increase by \$311 billion, and health care will now increase to 21 percent of our gross domestic product by 2019. So costs are going up, not down.

These numbers are alarming, and they're further proof that the health care bill missed the mark. Real reform would have lowered health care costs for individuals, for families, and for small businesses. Unfortunately, the partisan bill that was signed into law has failed to address this great need for our constituents.

HEALTH CARE FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Congress should have passed something on health care reform 40 years ago. We can't change what didn't happen for 40 years. But this year we had an opportunity to do something, and Congress finally did it.

When people in our country get sick and they don't have health insurance, they stay home, they stay home, they stay home until they're deathly ill. Then they go to the emergency room where they get the most expensive kind of health care there is in our country, and we all end up paying for it. We can and should do better.

We did better this year by passing health care reform for our people and our country. The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, says this will end up saving money on health care for people in our country. They are a nonpartisan entity that provides reliable information to both sides, Republicans and Democrats, and they're saying we can save money by this. We will do that.

We did the right thing for our people and our country by passing health care reform.

WE JUST BROKE HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, President Obama stated on February 7, 2010, "If we can start bending the cost curve on health care, that's the most important thing we can do to deal with the deficits long term." Well, we always agreed that he was bending the cost curve. But our position was that it wasn't being bent down; it was being bent up.

The chief actuary of CMS, Mr. Foster's, report supports this and states that health care costs will accelerate by over \$300 billion because of this bill. The health reform law will not extend the life of our entitlement programs, because severe cuts to the programs are used not to strengthen Medicare but, rather, to finance other outlays. And Medicare cuts could lead to providers ending their participation in the program.

This is not Republicans. This is the chief actuary of CMS who is saying this bill is a dog, and we'd better redo it because it's going to raise costs and decrease benefits.

There is an old saying. If you broke it, you have to keep it. We just broke health care in America.

MEDICAL CARE FOR WOMEN

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it takes a woman speaking up for other women to make unfair and inappropriate health care practices a thing of the past.

Last June, I introduced the Women's Obstetrician and Gynecologist Medical Access Now Act, the WOMAN Act, to ensure that every woman has direct access to her OB/GYN. As a State assembly member, I offered the law allowing women direct access to their OB/GYN in California. Unfortunately, many women have not had that access. But I'm happy to say that similar provisions were included in the final health care package.

Patients, employees, primary care physicians, and health plan providers all save money and time if women are allowed direct access to their OB/GYNs. Across the Nation, women will no longer have to contend with the gatekeeper system that can prevent or delay lifesaving care.

Women should not need a permission slip to receive OB/GYN care, no questions asked.

HEALTH CARE FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS

(Mr. CASSIDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, it's always fun to listen to the debate because clearly both sides are saying the same thing but disagreeing to it. I am actually referencing some of the things we're speaking of.

We are told that the health care bill is going to create jobs in addition to its primary goal of increasing access to quality care at an affordable price. Now, a component of this is Medicaid, insuring 21 million people across the Nation, a combined Federal-State program where the State pays part, the Feds pay part. The problem is that Medicaid is not providing access to quality care at an affordable price.

There were two articles from the New York Times recently. One speaks of how people with Medicaid cannot get in to see a physician. They have to go to the emergency room because physicians don't see Medicaid patients because it pays so little and it has so much hassle. The other is about how a woman with cancer in Michigan cannot find a physician—she also has Medicaid—because the problem is it pays so little, has so much hassle, all the other things we expect in a bureaucracy. And lastly, regarding cost, despite paying less so it doesn't give access to quality care, according to articles in Politico, it's going to increase the deficit by \$1 billion for States like California.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE AND HEALTH CARE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have some excellent news to share. Just last week, the CMS' independent actuary released an analysis of the health care reform legislation that we passed last month here in this Chamber. Their report shows that we are strengthening Medicare.

Indeed, according to the Office of the Actuary, the Affordable Care Act will help extend the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by an additional 12 years to 2029, compared to 2017 today. It closes the prescription drug doughnut hole by 2020, with an immediate rebate this year of \$250 and a 50-percent discount on brand-name drugs next year. It lowers annual premiums by nearly \$200 per beneficiary. It lowers annual average coinsurance by over \$200 per beneficiary, and it provides preventive wellness care visits for free.

When we passed health care reform, Democrats stood up for seniors by strengthening Medicare and closing the prescription drug doughnut hole that was wide open and would be left wide open under the Republicans' plan. Under their radical plan to repeal health care, we will move in the wrong direction.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WESTMORELAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, last week the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services confirmed what we